

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants cancel claims 2 and 16 without prejudice.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 1 and 4-14 have been allowed and that claim 16 has been objected to.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 16, accordingly, this claim is also in condition for allowance. Remaining claims 17-21 depend from allowable claim 15 and hence are also allowable. In addition, these claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter as noted in Applicants' previous responses incorporated herein by reference. Accordingly, all the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Jan 28, 2004

By: Christopher J. Reckamp
Christopher J. Reckamp
Registration No. 34,414

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.
222 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601
PHONE: (312) 609-7599
FAX: (312) 609-5005